



SCHOOL OF
GOVERNMENT

THE UNIVERSITY
OF NORTH CAROLINA
AT CHAPEL HILL

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



This was my first full year serving as North Carolina Judicial College director. Unfortunately, it coincided with a global pandemic that altered the environment in which we, and the court officials we serve, are accustomed to working. Like so many others, we faced challenges. We transitioned in-person courses and conferences to online offerings.

We had to forge and maintain relationships over Zoom rather than in person. Law and procedural rules are never static, but seldom do they change at the rate they did this year due to the monthly issuance of emergency directives governing court operations. Notwithstanding these challenges, we continued to educate, support, and serve officials across the state as they worked to ensure that justice was administered without favor, denial, or delay.

Highlights of the year included Zoom sessions for superior court judges on courthouse operations, regular Zoom convenings of chief district court judges to address altered procedures, and partnering with the superior and district court judges' associations to offer training on issues related to racial equity. We also offered our regular fare of courses in a new, online format, including *Basic School for Magistrates*, *Orientation for New District Judges*, *Orientation for New Superior Court Judges*, *Introduction to Small Claims for Magistrates*, *Chief District Court Judge Leadership*

Training, *Appellate Training on New and Emerging Legal Issues*, *Probate of a Will*, and many more. And we continued our partnership with the North Carolina Justice Academy, instructing law enforcement leaders in the *Justice Academy Leadership Institute*.

We blogged regularly. This platform was essential in keeping officials and the public abreast of the statutes and impact of emergency directives and limitations on evictions imposed by the state and federal governments, summarizing and analyzing appellate opinions and new legislation, and addressing other legal issues of interest. Jamie Markham and Jessica Smith published the latest supplement to *North Carolina Crimes*, and Timothy Heinle published a guide focusing on what a guardian ad litem attorney should do in the first week after being appointed.

These activities and our other work accentuate the important role that our faculty and staff play in the court system: as convenors, trusted confidantes, advisors, and partners for court leaders and officials. We are honored to serve in this capacity and are poised to embrace—as partners—the challenges and the opportunities Judicial Branch officials will encounter in the year to come.

Shea Riggsbee Denning

Robert W. Bradshaw Jr. Distinguished Term Professor of Public Law and Government

Director, North Carolina Judicial College

FACULTY UPDATES

Welcome, Emily Turner!

Turner joined the Judicial College in July 2021 as an assistant professor of public law and government. She will lead the faculty in working with the state's judges, magistrates, and clerks on civil procedure, trials, and hearings.



EMILY
TURNER



SARA
DEPASQUALE

Congratulations, Sara DePasquale!

DePasquale was named Albert and Gladys Hall Coates Distinguished Term Associate Professor of Public Law and Government.

Congratulations, Phil Dixon and Jonathan Holbrook!

Dixon and Holbrook have been appointed teaching assistant professors.



PHIL
DIXON



JONATHAN
HOLBROOK



SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

North Carolina Judicial College

2020–2021 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

42

Continuing education
courses offered
(41 online • 1 hybrid)

2,871

Students attending
virtual programs

4.66

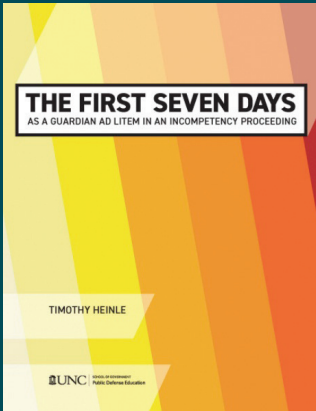


Overall course
usefulness rating

465

Hours of continuing
education credit
offered

NEW PUBLICATIONS



The First Seven Days as a Guardian ad Litem in an Incompetency Proceeding
by Timothy Heinle

JUVENILE LAW BULLETIN
Including Young Children in Delinquency Jurisdiction: Issues of Infancy and Capacity
by Jacquelyn Greene

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE BULLETIN
Computer-Related Crime in North Carolina
by Brittany Williams

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT A GLANCE



Teaching with law enforcement. Faculty from the Judicial College and the School of Government's Center for Public Leadership and Governance partnered with the North Carolina Justice Academy to deliver a week-long training as part of the *Justice Academy Leadership Institute*.



A new program. Faculty member Cheryl Howell created a new Judicial College course for district court judges titled *Managing Family Financial Cases* in July 2020. The program will continue to be offered on a biennial basis.



Feasibility study completed. The Judicial College completed a feasibility study for the North Carolina General Assembly on the prospect of creating a new Office of Prosecutorial Services (OPS) that would run in parallel to the current Office of Indigent Defense Services (IDS).



COURSES AND CONFERENCES GO VIRTUAL

Child Development for Judges
Faculty members Sara DePasquale and Jacquelyn Greene transitioned *Child Development for Judges* into a virtual learning experience held over five days. The course focused on normative child and adolescent development along with the impact of childhood trauma on that development.

The Clerks series
Meredith Smith offered another virtual series for clerks across the state. The most recent series focused on estate administration.

Defender conferences
The Judicial College held two public defender conferences virtually in the last year as well as offering a virtual trial school.

FROM OUR CLIENTS

"I guess probably there's two broad ways [the Judicial College impacts my work]. The first is just the continued education, just the excellence of it, the fact that they keep us up to date on changes in the law. The other thing that really is meaningful to me, is to be able to call someone with a with a novel legal question or difficult legal question and just get such a rapid response—and an accurate response."

JEFFREY B. FOSTER
Judge
North Carolina Superior Court



"I was particularly proud to witness our district court judge association, specifically the education committee, being willing to make race equity not only a series but a very regular part of our education going forward. We would not have been able to do this without the Judicial College. Their work in advance, during, and after has made a great difference."

TY HANDS
Judge
North Carolina District Court



"The variety of classes and seminars offered by the UNC School of Government has been phenomenal. As a new magistrate, I have received a wealth of knowledge in these classes and seminars. The flexibility of online [learning] has provided our small county with three magistrates the chance to gain valuable information."

LAURA HOLDEN
Magistrate
District Court Swain County



"Just about every time something is offered, I try to adjust my schedule to take advantage because of the quality of the instruction and the fact that it's always so up to date and relevant to what I do. In between taking advantage of the course offerings, I find that the faculty are so accessible. I've reached out to many of them outside of courses in order to tap their wisdom."

MARK KLEINSCHMIDT
Clerk
Orange County Superior Court

